

Message Text

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44

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 030550Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6665

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

US MISSION GENEVA 274

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 5437

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE RESOLUTION ON
BOAT CASES

THE BOARD DIRECTORS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION
AND PEACE (WCRP), MEETING AT SINGAPORE ON DECEMBER 1-2,
1976, ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

1. QUOTE: THE BOARD ACCEPTS THE PROPOSAL OF THE ASIAN
CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE THAT A JOINT PROJECT BE
LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY TO RESCUE THE REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA
WHO ARE IN BOATS DRIFTING IN THE OPEN SEAS. THE BOARD
APPOINTS A RELIEF COMMITTEE HEADED BY PROF. YOSHIAKI
IISAKA OF THE JAPANESE COMMITTEE OF WCRP, OTHER MEMBERS
INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SINGAPORE INTER-
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION. VEN. THICH NBAT HANH IS ASKED
TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PROJECT, ASSISTED BY DR CAO NGOC
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PHUONG. A THIRD STAFF MEMBER WILL BE RECRUITED. THE

COMMITTEE IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARTER A SHIP IMMEDIATELY TO RESCUE THESE BOAT REFUGEES. AN INITIAL GRANT OF U.S. \$60,000 HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE JAPANESE COMMITTEE OF WCRP AND IS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. AN EQUAL AMOUNT WILL BE RAISED FROM RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR SOURCES AROUND THE WORLD. CONCURRENTLY, ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE WITH THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES, JAPAN, THE U.S.A., AND AUSTRALIA TO SECURE SHELTER FOR THOSE RESCUED WHILE THEIR CASES FOR REHABILITATION ARE BEING PROCESSED. THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WILL BE CONSULTED AT EVERY STEP.

2. THE BOARD RECOGNIZES WITH GRATITUDE THE HUMANITARIAN STEP TAKEN BY SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS IN RECEIVING INDONCHINESE REFUGEES. IT APPEALS TO THESE GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE THEIR QUOTA ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS TO PROVIDE HAVEN TO NEW REFUGEES NOW DRIFTING IN SMALL BOATS ON THE CHINA SEA. THE BOARD IS INFORMING THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES OF ITS ACTION IN HIRING A SHIP TO PICK UP THESE REFUGEES AND ASKS THAT GOVERNMENTS CONTACT THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER IMMEDIATELY TO CONFIRM THE NUMBER OF NEW REFUGEES THEY WILL RECEIVE.

3. THE BOARD URGENTLY REQUESTS VARIOUS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ALLOCATE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS FOR THE RESCUE OPERATION IN PICKING UP INDOCHINESE REFUGEES NOW DRIFTING IN SMALL BOATS ON THE CHINA SEA. THE JAPANESE COMMITTEE OF WCRP HAS ALREADY COMMITTED \$60,000 (U.S.) TO CHARTER A SHIP. MATCHING FUNDS ARE NOW BEING URGENTLY SOUGHT FROM RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.

4. THE ADDRESS OF THE RELIEF COMMITTEE TO BE DIRECTED BY VN. THICK NHAT HAHN, IS 24TH FLOOR, UIC BUILDING, 5 SHENTON WAY, SINGAPORE GPN TELEPHONE 2204969. THE TREASURER IS MR WILLIE TAY KHIM SANG, 17-L NALLUR ROAD, SINGAPORE 16.
HOLDRIDGE

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